

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH BULLETIN

FOR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2008

THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – OCTOBER 26, 2008

Saint Alphonsus

Roman Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

750 Pittsburgh Street • Springdale, PA • 15144

Phone: 724-274-5084 • Fax: 724-274-7035 • e-mail: stalphonsus@verizon.net

Web Page Address: www.stalphonsuschurch.com

Administrator: Rev. George E. Saladna, S.T.L., S.S.L.

Weekend Assistant: Rev. James P. McDonough, S.T.L., J.C.L



Parish Established September 9, 1901

Church Dedicated September 5, 1926

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY MASS: Sat. 5:00 P.M. and Sun. Morn. at 8:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

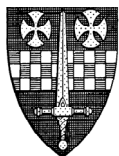
WEEKDAY: Mass held in Chapel next to Church. See bulletin each week or call Rectory for schedule of the 8:00 A.M. Mass which is not held every day (never on Sat morn).

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION: these days vary in time and obligation from year to year. See bulletin or call Rectory each time for details.

CONFESSIONS: Sat. from 3:30 to 4:30, and anytime by appointment.

MARRIAGE, BAPTISM: call parish office (six months before marriage).

COMMUNION CALLS AND OTHER SERVICES: call office for information.



New Parishioners: We welcome new parishioners whether newly moved into the area or those who have fallen off through inactivity. Welcome! Register by calling or coming to the parish office. Become an active, attending and supporting member of the parish. And please let us know if you move away or have your telephone or address changed. Thank you.

Church Hall Telephone: (724) 274-2547

PARISH OFFICES & STAFF

ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER (RECTORY: former Convent building)

(724) 274-5084

Marsha Etzrodt, Secretary

Office Hours: Mon. - Thur.: 8 to 4, Fri.: 8 to Noon

LIGUORI CENTER OFFICES (school building side entrance)

(724) 274-2547

CCD & Youth Min. - Karen Mueller

Social Services - Cathy Moxie

Music Director/Organist – Vickie Roofl

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
PITTSBURGH
ALLEGHENY
VALLEY DEANERY



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

THEY COULDN'T SEE THE FOREST FOR THE TREES

We are getting close to the end of the Church Year and St. Matthew's Gospel selections which we have been reading continue to highlight the clash between the Jewish Religious Establishment (Pharisees, Saducees, Lawyers, Scribes, Priests and Elders of the People) and Jesus, who stands before them all claiming by his life and actions to be the long-awaited Messiah, but who is anathema to them all since he does not live up to their own expectations of what the Christ should be like.

Today, the lawyers have their turn to try to trap Jesus, to trip him up in his speech, as they ask him a question about the **LAW**. The Law of Moses was supposed to be a gift from God, enabling people to know God's will, so they would know how best to march along the path that leads to Him. But by the time the lawyers got their hands on the law and added their own little interpretations and nuances it was no longer a blessing. It was a nuisance at best and a curse at worst. Even the Apostles had to admit that none of them had been able to keep it themselves. St. Paul adds that the Law served merely to show man how much he needed the help and salvation from God.

The lawyers were more interested in quantity rather than quality. Jesus said that they laid impossible burdens on men's backs but would not lift a finger to help carry them.

The lawyers today ask Jesus which commandment of the Law is the greatest. Forced into such a choice, they thought, Jesus was bound to offend someone, saying that this or that law was more important than some

other. But the Lord confounds them by getting to the heart of the matter and to the essence of true Law: there is only **ONE** law, anyway, and it is the law of **LOVE**. What good is keeping law if we have no love? And if we have true love for God and for our neighbor we are really keeping every good law that counts, anyway.

No wonder they did not dare to ask him any more questions.

-- Fr. Saladna

SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31

No weekday (daily) Mass this week. Fr. Saladna will be away. Marsha will be here and the Parish Office will be open for normal hours.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1 – All Saints Day (Not a Day of Obligation since it comes back-to-back with a Sunday.) We have only **ONE** Mass for Saturday, November 1, All Saints Day, at 8:00 AM.

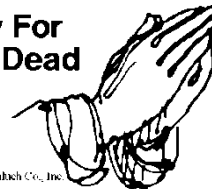
8:00 AM Mary Mieszkowski
5:00 PM [For Sunday] For all Parishioners, Liv. & Dec.

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 – All Souls Day

8:00 AM Zell and Berner Families
11:00 AM Joseph Bosman (Anniv.)

All Souls Day, when it falls on a Sunday, as it does this year, replaces the Sunday Liturgy.

**Pray For
The Dead**

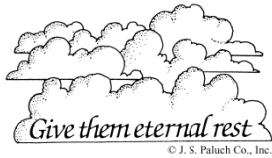


© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

REST IN PEACE -- The parish family of Saint Alphonsus wishes to extend their deepest sympathy to the family of John Grinder. Please remember the deceased

and his family in your prayers.

BACK TO STANDARD TIME – We “Fall back” one hour next Sunday, November 2, leaving Daylight Saving time and going back to Standard Time. When you go to bed on Saturday night, November 1, turn clocks **BACK** one hour. Next Sunday we will be back on Standard Time.



PRAYER FOR OUR BELOVED DEAD

November is the month of All Souls, a time when we especially remember our beloved dead. It is a holy thought to pray for the dead, that they might be released from their sins through the infinite love of Christ.

We have placed a book in the Church vestibule in which you are asked to list the names of the deceased you hold close in your heart and memory. They will be remembered in all the Masses in the month of November, and especially on All Souls Day, Sunday, November 2.

—

MASS INTENTIONS in our Church for the year 2009 are now being accepted. No requests or reservations over the phone. Use the forms that can be found in the Activity Room of the Church. Remember that we have only one resident priest and so the number of Mass Intentions that are accepted has to be severely limited. Those who will be celebrating special Wedding Anniversaries (Silver and Golden) should get their reservation taken care of NOW lest the date be taken by someone else

—

OCTOBER IS ROSARY MONTH – The Knights of Columbus, Father David Emery Council, will have the new “Guide to Praying the Rosary” pamphlet in the vestibule, next to the weekly bulletin, for anyone who would like to have one.

—

CCD AND YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

YOUTH GROUP MONTHLY MEETING – next Sunday, November 2, in the Liguori Center at 9:00 AM. **New members are welcome!**

MIDDLE SCHOOL FAITH RALLY – Friday, November 7, Saturday, November 8. The Diocese is pleased to present: “Our God The Great I Am”, featuring Jamie Dillon and Cooper Ray. This faith rally is designed for students in grades 6-8 as well as their parents. Come join others from across the Diocese of Pittsburgh in this fun and exciting evening of music, laughter and storytelling. To register, call Mrs. Mueller at 412-828-3007. Information and registration forms are available in the Activity Room.

odds“n”ends

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

THE CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS (C D of A) are raising money to buy **PHONE CARDS** for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Keeping in touch with folks at home is a great morale booster for our fighting men and women. Any donations you care to make to this cause will be greatly appreciated. There is no set goal: all the money raised for this cause will be used to purchase the phone cards and they will be sent overseas. Our parish is represented in the military now serving our country. To take part, put whatever donation you are able to make in an ordinary envelope and mark it **“PHONE CARDS FOR TROOPS.”** Thank you.

CD OF A CANDY SALE – Next Sunday, November 2, members of the CD of A will be taking orders for Joe Clark Candies, in the Church vestibule.

—

VOTER'S GUIDE – next week the citizens of the country will vote on the next President of the United States. The Pittsburgh Catholic has a voter's guide in this week's issue, which is also inserted into this week's Parish bulletin, focusing on the candidates' views on issues that are important to Catholics today. Be sure to read this guide before going to the polls.

—

“ENTERTAINMENT” DISCOUNT/COUPON BOOKS are once again being sold by Parish Social Services, in the Activity Room or in the Parish Office (during hours). These books which offer all kinds of discounts and sales make good gifts and save the user the price of the book many, many times over. The price of the 2009 book will be \$20.

—

DECEMBER VACATION SWEEPSTAKES – As in the past, our parish, together with other parishes and Catholic Institutions, will be participating in the “Vacation Sweepstakes,” throughout the month of December, with the daily drawing based on the PA Big Four Lottery Number. Those who are on our Sweepstakes Mailing List will be receiving more information in the mail around the first of November. For those who are not on the list and would like to receive information/tickets, just give us a call.

AQUINAS ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE – Aquinas Academy invites your family to a Pre-K through 12TH Grade Open House on Sunday, November 2, from 2 to 4 PM. Meet the faculty, administration, parents, coaches and students. Aquinas Academy is located at 2308 W. Hardies Road in Hampton Township (at the former location of St. Catherine of Sweden Church). Call Juan Mata, Director of Admissions at 724-444-0722 and visit their website: www.AquinasAcademy.info for more information.



CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Baby **Theresa Mae McGrath** and baby **Anna Elise McGrath**, daughters of Anthony Thomas and Amy Beth (Hosler) McGrath, who will be baptized next Sunday, November 2.



CATHOLIC CEMETERY SUNDAY

The National Catholic Cemetery Conference has declared Sunday, November 2, 2008, as Catholic Cemetery Sunday, to encourage visits to our Catholic cemeteries and promote prayers for all of those who have gone before us. This year Catholic Cemetery Sunday falls on the actual date of the Feast of All Souls, November 2nd.

To commemorate this important event, The Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Diocese of Pittsburgh will sponsor a prayer service in most of the Diocesan cemeteries on that date.

Our Lady of Hope Cemetery (Allegheny Valley) – Sunday, November 2, 3:00 PM.

For more information call 1-877-886-7526,

FALL CARD PARTY – Monday, October 27, St. Mary Church Hall, 610 High Street, Freeport. \$8.00 per person. Salad buffet, refreshments, prizes. For reservations or additional information, please call Charmaine at 724-353-2038.

ST. MARY'S - Annual Thanksgiving Bingo/Bake Sale/Drawing/Door Prizes will be held on Sunday, November 2, in their Church Hall, 610 High Street, Freeport. Early bird bingo at 1:30 PM and the regular bingo at 1:45 PM. \$10 ticket entitles you to 2 lap boards, 1 set of specials, and a door prize chance. Lots of prize money -- \$25 for each regular game, \$50/specials, \$500 jackpot, and door prizes. Food and refreshments will be sold. For tickets or additional information, please call Geno Pernazza 724-295-3505. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

LOVE OF GOD

It's easy to tell when two people love each other. They like to be near each other and spend time together. They share intimate thoughts and feelings. They enjoy making each other happy. And knowing that they are loved allows them to reach out to other people and treat them with love and respect.

In this Sunday's Gospel Jesus tells us that the greatest law is to love God with our whole heart and soul and mind. What does it mean to love God? Certainly it means spending time together by reading and reflecting on God's holy word. It also means sharing our thoughts and feelings with God in prayer and listening for God's voice. Where do we go to be close to God? We join God's people in worship in the church, rest in God's presence in the Blessed Sacrament, discover God in the wonder of creation and the miraculous moments of daily life. What can we do to make God happy? How do we, like the Thessalonians, "serve the living and true God" (1 Thessalonians 1:9)?

LOVE OF NEIGHBOR

The reading from Exodus makes it very clear that we serve God by serving those who are oppressed or in need. Jesus makes it more personal—we are to love our neighbors. That means those with whom we work and play and live. When we spend time with God we can't help but experience God's great love for us. And knowing that we are loved by God should make it easy to reach out in charity and justice to our neighbors both near and far away.

Thus, love of neighbor flows naturally from those who love God. We cannot truly say that we love God unless it shows in loving relationships and compassion to those in need. At the same time, we cannot maintain our love of neighbor unless we take time to drink from the wellspring of God's refreshing love.

Copyright (c) 2007, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

Your Ministry of Support

Thank you for your offerings to Saint Alphonsus Parish
For Sunday, October 19, 2008

Offertory	\$4,145.50
Parish Share	\$852.00
Mission Sunday Collection	\$1,160.00

PLEASE REMEMBER SAINT ALPHONSUS CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

The special **second collection next Sunday, November 2**, will be the monthly collection for repairs and improvements to our Church and to help pay our pledge for repairs to St. Paul Cathedral in Oakland. We thank you for your kind and generous support of St. Alphonsus Parish and our Diocese of Pittsburgh.

KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS NEWS

MEMORIAL MASS – A Memorial Mass for deceased Knights and members of the Council Family will be held on Tuesday, November 18, at 6:45 PM at Our Lady of Victory Church, Harwick. All widows and families of deceased members are invited to attend. Come help celebrate in respect for our Fathers, Brothers and Uncles who were dear to us and the K of C.

BISHOP'S PROJECT – Envelopes containing Christmas Seals will be distributed later in November to parishioners of Our Lady of Victory Church and St. Alphonsus Church. Proceeds will go to the McGuire Home and St. Anthony's to support the needs of special children. Any amount, no matter how large or small, will be greatly appreciated.

ELECTION DAY TURNOUT – On November 4 Americans will go to the polls to select those who will represent us at every level of government. Knights have always taken seriously their civic responsibility to participate in the election process, and to encourage others to do so as well. The U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has declared, "In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue; participation in the political process is a moral obligation – every vote counts. Every act of responsible citizenship is an exercise of significant individual power." You are urged to make sure that you cast your vote in November, and encourage your family and friends to vote, too.

BALANCE

Today's scriptures emphasize the fundamental link between love of God and love of our neighbors, especially those who are most in need. Love of God should compel us to love the people whom God cherishes. Conversely, work for justice and charity for those in need should be rooted in our love of God.

That connection and balance, however, isn't always easy to maintain in our lives. Even in religious orders we find that some Christians are more oriented toward contemplation and prayer, while others are more active in reaching out to those who are oppressed. Today Jesus reminds us of the necessity for both in the life of faith.

© Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

OCTOBER IS "ROSARY MONTH"

Pope Benedict traveled to Pompeii, near Naples (Italy) to foster devotion to Mary through recitation of the Rosary.

Vatican City, October 19, 2008 (VIS) – Before praying the rosary at 5 PM today with faithful gathered at the Shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Holy Rosary at Pompeii, Italy, Benedict XVI paused for a few moments in the chapel of Blessed Bartolo Longo. Subsequently, in remarks he made following the Marian prayer, the Pope asked: "Where did this great apostle of Mary find the energy and constancy necessary to achieve such an important enterprise? Was it not in the Rosary which he welcomed as a true and heartfelt gift from the Virgin?"

"Yes", he cried, "that is how it was! This popular Marian prayer is a vital spiritual means to increase our intimacy with Jesus and to learn, in the school of the Blessed Virgin, always to carry out the divine will".

"Yet in order to be apostles of the Rosary, it is necessary to gain a personal experience of the beauty and profundity of this prayer, so simple and universally accessible. The Rosary is a school of contemplation and of silence. At first sight it may seem like a prayerful accumulation of words and hence not easily compatible with the silence which is rightly recommended for meditation and contemplation. In reality though, this regular repetition of the Ave Maria does not disturb inner silence, rather it nourishes it".

The Pope recalled that, as in the case of the Psalms in the Liturgy of the Hours, "silence rises up through the words and phrases, not as a vacuum but as a presence of ultimate meaning which transcends the words themselves and, together with them, speaks to the heart. Even when prayed in large groups, the Rosary must be seen as a contemplative prayer, and this cannot come about if an atmosphere of inner silence is lacking". Furthermore, he went on, the Rosary "is interwoven with elements from Holy Scripture" such as "the enunciation of the mystery using words taken from the Bible. The first part of the Ave Maria comes from the Gospel; the second part rings out like the response of children, who addressing themselves imploringly to their mother, express their own adherence to the plan of salvation. Thus the minds of those who pray remain anchored in Scripture and in the mysteries it contains".

Finally, Pope Benedict spoke of World Mission Day, which is being celebrated today. Once again he evoked the figure of Bartolo Longo who, famous for his spirit of charity, wishes the shrine of Pompeii to be "open to the whole world as a centre whence to irradiate the prayer of the Rosary and a place of intercession for peace among peoples. "Dear friends", the Pope concluded, "I wish to confirm both these goals – the apostolate of charity and the prayer of peace – and entrust them once more to your spiritual and pastoral efforts".

The prayer over, Benedict XVI departed from the shrine of Pompeii and at 6:30 PM began his return journey to the Vatican by helicopter.

-VIS – Vatican Information Service